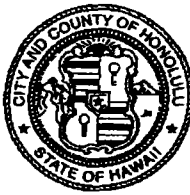


KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



CHRISTOPHER B. HAPPY, M.D.  
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

MASAHICO KOBAYASHI, M.D., Ph.D.  
DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

**AUTOPSY REPORT**  
**Case No. 19-0418-ESPEJO, Delmar**

**RE: Delmar ESPEJO**

**DATE/TIME OF PRONOUNCEMENT: 02/18/2019, 8:48 PM**


**DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF EXAMINATION: 02/19/2019  
11:30 AM  
Medical Examiner's Facility**

**PATHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES:**

- I. Contact range perforating gunshot wound of back:
  - A. See description of injuries below.

**CAUSE OF DEATH: Gunshot wound of back**

**MANNER OF DEATH: Homicide**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon P. Gates, M.D.  
Forensic Pathologist

April 18, 2019  
Date

**POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION**  
**Department of the Medical Examiner**  
**City and County of Honolulu**

This autopsy is performed by Jon P. Gates, M.D., Forensic Pathologist at the Department of the Medical Examiner, Honolulu, Hawaii on 02/19/2019.

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION:** The body is received in a body bag and is identified by an appropriately labeled Medical Examiner's tag affixed to the right great toe. When first viewed, the decedent is unclad and accompanied by an appropriately labeled plastic bag of clothing. The clothing is examined and contains defects consistent with the gunshot wounds described below.

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:** The body is that of a well-developed, well-nourished, adult man whose appearance is consistent with the reported age of 28 years. The body measures 63 inches in height and weighs 117 pounds. The body is cold following refrigeration. Rigor mortis is fixed and symmetric. Fixed, purple lividity is distributed over the posterior surfaces of the body, except in areas exposed to pressure.

The face is symmetric and unremarkable, without visible injury. The head is atraumatic, symmetric, and normocephalic. The scalp is intact and atraumatic. The scalp hair is brown. Facial hair consists of a goatee and mustache. The eyelids are intact, atraumatic, and unremarkable. The irides are brown. The corneae are translucent. The sclerae and conjunctivae are unremarkable, without petechial hemorrhages or icterus. The nose is symmetric and unremarkable with an intact nasal septum. The ears are symmetric, normally placed, and unremarkable. The oral cavity has native dentition. The oral mucosa is tan-red, moist, and unremarkable. The frenula are intact.

The neck is symmetric and unremarkable. The trachea is palpable in the midline. The chest and abdomen are well developed. The abdomen is flat. The chest and back show evidence of injuries described below. The external genitalia are those of a normal adult male.

The upper and lower extremities are well developed and symmetric, without absence of digits. The hands, fingers, feet, toes, and nails are normally formed, intact, and unremarkable. There is no clubbing or edema of the distal extremities.

**EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL THERAPY:** Evidence of medical intervention consisted of an intubation tube in the mouth, electrocardiogram pads on the chest and abdomen, a bandage on the back, and a hospital ID on the right ankle.

**SCARS:** There are linear, well-healed scars of the bilateral lower legs.

**TATTOOS:** There is a tattoo on the posterior right hand.

## **EVIDENCE OF INJURY:**

### **Description of Gunshot Wound:**

Entrance: On the left side of the back, located 12 inches below the top of the head and 2 inches left of the posterior midline, is an entrance gunshot wound consisting of a  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{8}$ -inch defect with a  $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch wide rim of abrasion. There is black soot and searing surrounding the wound located from the 9 o'clock to 3 o'clock positions, measuring  $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{8}$  inch.

Path: The wound path sequentially perforated the skin, soft tissue, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> thoracic vertebrae, spinal cord, upper lobe of the right lung, right lateral 1<sup>st</sup> rib, soft tissue and skin.

Trajectory: The wound path runs back to front, left to right, and slightly downward.

Associated Injuries: Associated injuries included injury of the skin, soft tissue, thoracic vertebrae, spinal cord, right lung, and associated right and left hemothoraces measuring approximately 400 mL of liquid blood each.

Recovery: There is no associated projectile recovered.

Exit: On the right side of the chest, located 14 inches below the top of the head and  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches right of the anterior midline, is an exit gunshot wound consisting of a  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{8}$ -inch defect.

**INTERNAL EXAMINATION:** The body is opened in the usual manner with a Y-shaped incision. See description of injuries above. All body organs are in normal and anatomic position. The serous surfaces are smooth and glistening. The diaphragms are intact and normally elevated. The body cavities have no peculiar or aromatic odor.

**HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:** The reflected scalp is free of trauma. The calvarium is intact and without fracture. The brain weighs 1420 grams. The dura mater and falx cerebri are intact and unremarkable. The epidural and subdural spaces are free of blood. The leptomeninges are thin and delicate. The cerebral hemispheres are symmetric. The structures at the base of the brain, including cranial nerves and blood vessels, are free of abnormality. Sections through the cerebral hemispheres reveal no lesions within the cortex, subcortical white matter, or deep parenchyma of either hemisphere. The cerebral ventricles are of normal caliber. Sections through the brainstem and cerebellum are unremarkable. The first portion of the spinal cord, viewed through the foramen magnum, is unremarkable.

**NECK:** The neck is dissected after the thoracoabdominal and cranial contents are removed. Examination of the soft tissues of the neck, including large vessels and strap muscles, reveals no abnormalities. The superficial and deep muscles of the neck are firm, red-brown, intact, and unremarkable without hemorrhage or laceration. The hyoid bone and larynx are intact. The tongue is normal.

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** The heart weighs 230 grams. The epicardial surfaces are smooth, glistening, and unremarkable. The coronary ostia are patent. The coronary arteries arise normally and follow the distribution of a right dominant pattern with no significant atherosclerosis. The chambers and valves bear the usual size/position relationship, and are morphologically normal and unremarkable. The valves are free of vegetations. The myocardium is dark red-brown, firm, and unremarkable. The atrial and ventricular septa are intact, and the septum and free walls are without muscular bulges. The foramen ovale is closed. There is no focal or regional fibrosis, erythema, pallor, or softening. The aorta and its major branches arise normally and follow the usual course with no significant atherosclerosis. The orifices of the major aortic vascular branches are patent. The vena cava and its major tributaries return to the heart in the usual distribution and are unremarkable.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** See description of injuries above. The right and left lungs weigh 320 and 450 grams, respectively. The upper and lower airways are patent, and the mucosal surfaces are smooth, yellow-tan, and unremarkable. The uninjured pleural surfaces are smooth, glistening, and unremarkable. The pulmonary parenchyma is dark red, and the cut surfaces exude moderate amounts of blood and frothy fluid. There are no masses, hemorrhages, consolidations, obstructions, or destructive emphysema. The pulmonary arteries are normally developed and patent. There is no saddle embolus on *in situ* examination of the pulmonary trunk.

**HEPATOBIILIARY SYSTEM:** The liver weighs 1220 grams. The hepatic capsule is intact, smooth, and glistening, covering firm, red-brown parenchyma. The hepatic artery and portal vein are patent and intact. The extrahepatic biliary tree appears to be patent.

**HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM:** The spleen weighs 90 grams and has a smooth intact capsule covering red-purple, moderately firm parenchyma. The splenic white pulp is grossly unremarkable. The regional lymph nodes appear normal. The bone marrow (rib) is red-purple.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:** The pituitary gland is intact, normally developed, and is unremarkable without laceration, hemorrhage, or mass lesion. The thyroid gland is symmetric and unremarkable with a firm, red-brown, granular parenchyma and no cyst, hemorrhage, fibrosis, or mass lesion. The adrenal glands are normally situated and have soft, yellow cortices and soft, gray-brown medullae. The pancreas has a soft, tan parenchyma with a normal lobular architecture and no saponification, pseudocyst, neoplasm, fibrosis, hemorrhage, or mineralization.

**GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:** The esophagus is lined by gray-white smooth mucosa. The gastric mucosa is arranged in the usual rugal folds, and the lumen contains nondescript green brown fluid. There are no pill fragments or foreign bodies identified. The small and large bowels are unremarkable. The appendix is present and unremarkable.

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** The right and left kidneys weigh 110 and 100 grams, respectively. The renal capsules are smooth, thin, semitransparent, and strip with ease from the underlying, smooth, red-brown, firm cortical surfaces. The cortices are of normal thickness and well delineated from the medullary pyramids. The calyces, pelves, and ureters are unremarkable. The urinary bladder contains clear yellow urine. The mucosa is gray-tan and smooth. The bilaterally descended testes are unremarkable.

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:** See description of injuries above. The skeleton is well developed and without deformity or osteoporosis. The vertebrae, clavicles, sternum, and pelvis are without fracture. The supporting musculature and soft tissues are not unusual. The firm, red-brown muscles are well hydrated and free of focal lesions. The cervical spinal column is stable on internal palpation.

**Specimens to Pathology:** Portions of all major organs are fixed in formalin and retained.

**Specimens to Toxicology:** Peripheral blood, central blood, urine, gastric contents, a blood card, and vitreous humor.

**Toxicology results:** Toxicology is performed and is positive for caffeine (qualitative positive) and alcohol at 0.16 g/dL in the peripheral blood. See separate reports.

**Radiographic studies:** Full body radiographs were made and retained.

**Evidence submitted:** Items of clothing and the body bag tag #5827043 were submitted to a representative of the Honolulu Police Department and receipts were obtained.

## **OPINION**

**CAUSE OF DEATH:** This 28-year-old man, Delmar Espejo, died of a gunshot wound of back.

**MANNER OF DEATH:** Homicide.